

THE Nexus Newsletter

Vol. 10, No. 3

Fall 2017 / Winter 2018

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Key Legislators Participated in Panel Discussion

-- shared important tips for engaging legislators --

Four key legislators participated in a panel discussion during the Idaho Library Association's (ILA) annual conference in October. The panel was moderated by ILA's Legislative Advisor John Watts. The participants on the panel were:

Senator Lori Den Hartog, who is a member of the Senate Education Committee

Platform/Voting Record: Believes there are three major components of a successful educational system: local control, balanced allocation of resources, and school choice.

Senator Abby Lee, who is on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC)*

Platform/Voting Record: Supports local control of education, including funding. Believes college and career readiness is "the key to charting a new course for Idaho."

Representative Patrick McDonald, who is the Vice Chair of the House Education Committee

Platform/Voting Record: Voted to provide extensive reading intervention, establish college and career advisors, and improve advanced opportunities for students. Voted to restore operational funding for recruitment and retention of teachers and to fund the continuing implementation of the career ladder. Also supported STEM and early-reading initiatives.

Representative Melissa Wintrow, who is on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC)

Platform/Voting Record: Supported legislation to ensure third-graders meet basic reading proficiencies. Believes in investing in pre-k education and that early learning programs improve literacy rates and drastically increase students' chances for success throughout their education and to "go on." Also believes in helping rural schools and that it is "our duty to ensure that everyone has access to a quality education."

Representative Wintrow posted a library-themed blog after the ILA Conference.

<http://www.wintrowforidaho.com/libraries-vital-part-of-a-comprehensive-literacy-plan/>

*JFAC approves or denies the annual budget of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). The ICfL leverages its state and federal funding to assist Idaho's more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries with resources, programs, and support.

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MISSION

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

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Key Legislators Participate in Panel Discussion

Continued from Cover Page.

State Librarian Ann Joslin said, "The legislators who participated in this year's panel discussion were some of the very best to hear our challenges, concerns, and success stories, as they are members of the committees that impact the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the library community. The opportunity to speak directly to these Senators and Representatives was invaluable, as was the chance to get their perspective on Idaho libraries." Joslin continued, "The prevailing message from these policymakers was for the library community to reach out and engage their local elected officials and share their library stories."

Senators Hartog and Lee and Representatives McDonald and Wintrow repeated the importance of creating and/or strengthening relationships with lawmakers at the local level.

Some suggestions they had for **engaging your legislators** were: adding them to your email list; sending them library press releases; inviting them to library events; and joining relevant committees at the local level. In addition, they all said to "be more intrusive" with your legislators and "hound your legislators to get into your library."

What the legislators suggested:

Senator Lee said, "I would be surprised to find a legislator who is **not** interested in education, community connection, etc."

Representative McDonald advised librarians to "be more visible to us." McDonald was unaware there are schools that do not have librarians. He added, "We need an educated workforce, and it starts with you guys [librarians]."

Representative Wintrow encouraged libraries to be a community resource and to "form partnerships in the community." She also said, "Figure out who's in your district and invite them in. And make it your priority. And then, help educate them about the great work you're doing. Because so many times, if I connect it in my heart, I carry it with me."



Continued on Page 3.

Key Legislators Participate in Panel Discussion

Continued from Page 2.

The panelists also reminded the audience that legislators are extremely busy and are inundated with information about a wide variety of issues and topics -- so, consistent, clear, and timely communication with lawmakers is critical. Don't think that sending them one newsletter or press release will be enough to keep the library story top of mind with the people who vote on the legislation and funding that impact your library.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) works to influence library policy and funding decisions at the state and federal levels, but equally essential is the legislative impact that individual libraries can have at the local level.

The key messages from the legislative panel were:

- **Aggressively contact your legislators and get them into your library to see the great things you do.**

(To find out who your legislator is, visit: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator/>)

- **Consistently educate and inform your legislators about the library issues.**



If you need support regarding legislative engagement, please contact your **ICfL Area Field Consultant**. If you are uncertain who your consultant is, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/ConsultingAreaMapDec2017.pdf>

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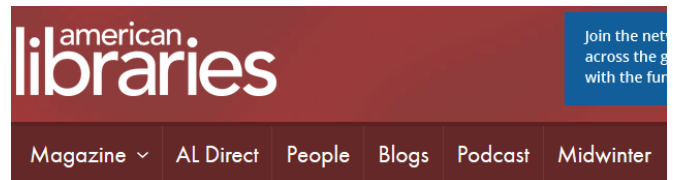
The ICfL will continue to create/provide tools that can be used in outreach and engagement. Visit the "communications" page of the ICfL website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/communication>.

State Librarian Shares Legislative Outreach Tips via ALA Magazine

Idaho State Librarian Ann Joslin recently shared some outreach tips for reaching legislators.

To read the article, visit the American Library Association (ALA) magazine, *American Libraries*, here: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/advocating-for-libraries>.

As the information given in the first three pages of this newsletter conveys, the prevailing message in regard to getting legislative support is to aggressively and **consistently** contact your legislators to let them know about the great things you are doing in your library.



Advocating for Librari

Tips for talking to your legislators

By Ann Joslin | December 7, 2017

Tips from State Librarian Ann Joslin:

Don't overestimate what legislators know (or understand) about your cause. Be ready to educate them each legislative session, and do so in engaging ways. Legislators are busy people who get a lot of information thrown at them, often about unfamiliar subjects and issues. Make it simple for legislators to absorb -- and remember -- your library's story and why it is important to your community and/or our state.

Research your legislators. Focus your efforts on senators and representatives whose stated goals and interests align the best with the library mission. To find out who your legislators are, visit: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator>.

Tailor your message. Find out what messages might resonate with the people who have control over the purse strings and tailor a pitch to each one. And be prepared to share that targeted message -- anywhere. If you unexpectedly encounter a legislator -- maybe in line at your favorite coffee place -- introduce yourself and bring up the library.

Advocacy, engagement, outreach, public relations, and good, old-fashioned schmoozing are all components of disseminating the library message to the appropriate audience. And getting that message out has never been more important.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to better serve their communities through statewide programming, continuing education, online resources, and building library community. To learn more about the ICfL, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.

For more on the ICfL's budget process, please see page 5 of this newsletter.

The ICfL continues to add to the communications resources it provides for libraries. Visit the ICfL communications page at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/communication>.

ICfL Enhancement Request Approved

by ILA Membership

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) presented its budget **Enhancement Request** for fiscal year (FY) 2019 to the membership of the Idaho Library Association (ILA) during its annual conference in October. The membership approved the Enhancement Request, which is for “new money” -- over and above the ICfL’s FY2019 budget request.

The **ICfL’s Enhancement Request** is:

- To move the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) from the federal fund to state funding (where it was prior to 2010).
- For an additional amount of \$45,000 for broadband reimbursement.
- For an additional amount of \$9,500 to cover the licensing fee for Office 365, used in the ICfL’s offices. (This will be an annual request.)

The Governor’s Recommendation of the General Fund Budget is typically released in December. He may approve or reject any of the Enhancement Request. The Governor’s recommended budget will go to the Joint Appropriations-Finance Committee (JFAC) for approval, usually in January. The Idaho Legislature can fund the Enhancement Request, even if it is not recommended by the Governor. State Librarian Ann Joslin will have the opportunity to address JFAC before their vote.

If the Enhancement Request regarding the TBS is approved, that could free up some federal funding that the ICfL would use in other programs.

The ICfL’s plans for additional federal funding include:

- A statewide e-book subscription for all elementary school libraries;
- Support for model school library programs;
- Increased out-of-school learning opportunities that focus on the 21st-century skills needed by Idaho’s future workforce.

However, the continuation of this federal funding is tentative. In March 2017, President Trump’s preliminary budget proposed deep cuts across domestic spending and included the elimination of support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries, museums, and related organizations. In May 2017, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, included an increase of funding to the IMLS, rather than the Administration’s proposed elimination of funding. As of this writing, Congress had not passed the federal budget for FY2018.

The ICfL’s federal funding makes up approximately one-third of its budget. The elimination of its federal funding would severely jeopardize the ICfL’s ability to carry out its mission of assisting the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

ILA Unveils Policy-Sharing Message Board:

The Idaho Library Association (ILA) has a new message board where policies are posted that you might find useful. As an ILA member, you may log into the site and access the materials. You may also share your policies. Visit: http://www.idaholibraries.org/policy_sharing.

TBS Helps the Visually Impaired to Never Stop Reading

For those Idahoans unable to read standard print due to a physical disability, the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) returns the joy of reading to their lives -- at no cost, or even inconvenience.

The TBS is a **free** library service containing more than 96,000 titles. The audio books and magazines are recorded on specialized cartridges, which are mailed to and from patrons at no cost to them. The titles are sent "free matter for the blind" via the United States Postal Service. Titles may also be downloaded from an online database.

The TBS serves nearly 3,000 Idahoans, but there are likely many more potential patrons in the Gem State.



To reach Idahoans who could benefit from the TBS program, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and libraries throughout the state perform advocacy and outreach activities to spread the word about a service that the current patrons rated as "excellent" (72%) or "good" (24%) in a 2017 patron satisfaction survey conducted by the University of Idaho.

Libraries have a vital role in attracting potential TBS patrons in their community to the service. To help with those outreach efforts, a promotional campaign for the Talking Book Service, called "Say Yes to TBS," was launched in October 2017. It continues through March 2018.

Public libraries may [register](#) to participate in the **"Say Yes to TBS"** promotion, which includes posters, buttons, and bookmarks, along with posts to include in the library's social media efforts. If you want to join in this promotion, please hurry -- it concludes March 31, 2018.

For these materials and/or more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/9123>.



If you have questions about the Idaho Talking Book Service, please contact the ICfL's TBS Consultant Sue Walker at sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov or at (208) 639-4148.

Even if you do not wish to participate in current **"Say Yes to TBS"** promotion, please learn about the [Talking Book Service](#) as a benefit for your patrons and their families.

Communications Tools

For a TBS brochure, visit: http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/ICfLInfographicTBS-Nov2017final_0.pdf on the ICfL's communications page: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/communication>, where you'll find other library-related infographics.

Annual Reports Due

January 1

Along with being a time for resolutions, January 1st is also the due date for public libraries to submit their **annual reports**.

If your library received money from the Education Opportunity Resource Act (EOR), those funds should be reported and identified in question 5.2a -- State Operating Revenue.

The website used to submit the data is: <http://collect.btol.com>. If you need assistance with your login and/or password, please contact ICfL State Data Coordinator Patrick Bodily at: patrick.bodily@libraries.idaho.gov. Or call Patrick at his office: 208-525-7211 or on his cell: 208-569-3759.

How Idaho Ranks Nationally

(FY 2015)

3rd highest
in the **U.S.** per capita
in **circulation** of
children's
materials.

young adult
program attendance
jumped
to **3rd** in the **U.S.** per capita.

For an infographic with this stat and much more, visit the communications page of the ICfL website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/communication>.

Tax Time

Patrons who make a donation to a public library, library district, and/or the Idaho Commission for Libraries may be eligible to receive a tax credit.

For more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit> or access the 2017 public library tax contribution fact sheet at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/2017%20Public%20Library%20Contribution%20Tax%20Credit_1.pdf.

Or visit the Internal Revenue Service site at: <https://www.irs.gov/>.

New Staff / Roles at the ICfL

Due to retirements and other changes, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has recently welcomed new staff members and provided others with evolving opportunities.

Colleen Schowalter is the ICfL's new volunteer services coordinator, filling the role vacated when Sheila Winther retired after more than 25 years. Colleen served in a similar capacity at the Idaho Foodbank before joining the ICfL. Colleen enjoys working with the amazing people who volunteer at the Commission. In 2017, 109 people donated more than 5,540 hours to the ICfL. Colleen said, "Like many of the staff, the volunteers have years of experience under their belts, and they are so generous to share their knowledge with me."



Colleen Schowalter



Allison Floyd

Allison Floyd joined the Commission as librarian for the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) program. Her role includes management of the resource sharing service, ShareIdaho. (More on ShareIdaho on page 25 of this newsletter.) In regard to being attracted to the role, Allison said, "I love the idea that I don't work for a library, but that I work for all libraries in Idaho." The cup next to her keyboard proclaims Allison as "Cat Crazy." She shares her home with a female cat known as Meeps, and a male cat called Spartacus, who is said to be afraid of his own shadow. (But that is just a rumor.)

Tiffany Duke joined the ICfL as the agency's receptionist, and distinguished herself so quickly that she recently moved into the role of office specialist. Tiffany provides strong support to the Commission's broadband services consultant. (For more about receiving internet at little or no cost, please see pages 10-11 of this newsletter.) Tiffany has a degree in creative writing from Boise State. She and her husband, who love to travel, have explored every art museum, big and small, in each city they have visited. Tiffany said, "I joined the ICfL team because of the way it helps people throughout Idaho with plenty of programs."



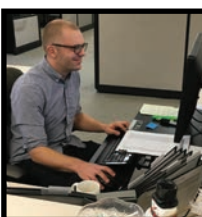
Tiffany Duke



Karen Ortiz

Karen Ortiz is a new customer service representative at the ICfL, who works on behalf of the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS). (To learn more about TBS, please visit page 6 of this newsletter.) A talented cook and trainer, Karen decided to try a different career path -- and is happy she did. Karen said, "I didn't know what to expect, but it is way better. I really like the TBS program, and the patrons are so friendly." On the home front, Karen's husband, five-year-old son, two cats, and Siberian Husky dog keep her busy.

John Shinn recently joined the ICfL as its receptionist. John assists patrons, volunteers, and members of the public who call and come into the Commission's office. John's duties also support the



various programs and services offered by the ICfL.

John Shinn

Rachel Welker is also a new customer service representative for the Idaho TBS program. A Boise native, Rachel returned to the area after a 20-year hiatus in Seattle, where she worked for the country's largest cooperative grocery store chain. Rachel said, "When I first started helping the TBS patrons, they were so nice and patient with me being new and slow." In addition to reading and movies, Rachel loves dogs. She said, "I've always found a 'gently used' -- older -- dog who is the one who needs me."



Rachel Welker

New Staff / Roles within the Idaho Library Community

Benewah County District Library -- At the end of the year, **Lynn Dever** will assume the role of director of the Benewah County District Library, located in Fernwood, after Director Margaret Benson's retirement.

Clearwater Memorial Library -- **Cleo Castellanos** has been appointed director of the Clearwater Memorial Library, located in Orofino.

Kuna Public Library -- **Tam Svedin** and **Jana Curforth** have officially been appointed co-directors of the Kuna Public Library, after managing the library as such on an interim basis since last December. The two have demonstrated how well they work together on projects like updating the library's computer, freshening up the children's room, and creating a new teen area. Tam is a 20-year veteran of the Kuna Public Library, and Jana has been with the library for five years. To reach Tam via email: admin2@kunalibrary.org. To reach Jana via email: admin3@kunalibrary.org.

Nampa Public Library -- **Claire Connley** has been appointed director of the Nampa Public Library, after serving in that capacity on an interim basis. Claire joined the Nampa Public Library in 2010, as operations manager. Under Claire's leadership, the library has additional 3-D printers, an expanded digital collection, and bilingual storytimes. Claire works to remind residents that the library is a free resource for more than just books, such as job searches and educational opportunities. Claire said, "Libraries are here for good reasons. They're here to make your life better."

Payette Public Library -- **Clay Ritter** has been appointed director of the Payette Public Library. One of the library's trustees, Philippa Smith, noted Clay's substantial grant-writing experience, along with his strength in computer technology and community outreach. Smith also commented on the library's steady upward trend regarding patronage. She said, "Audiobooks and DVDs have been an important part of the library's patronage growth."

Portneuf District Library -- **Holly Jackson** has been appointed director of the Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck. To reach Holly via email: holly.jackson@portneuflibrary.org.

Ririe Public Library -- **Wendy Mullins** has been appointed director of the Ririe Public Library.

Shoshone Public Library -- **Catherine Tanner** has been appointed director of the Shoshone Public Library. Catherine has not been able to access the email account of the library's former director, Clay Ritter. Please contact Catherine at: ctanner@shoshonecity.com.

Donnelly Community Library -- Donnelly's districting effort was a success. **Sherry Scheline** is the acting director of the Donnelly Community Library. For more about Donnelly, please visit page 12 of this newsletter.

Azam Houle recently retired from the Boise Public Library after 20 years. Her "storytime" performances were well-known, and loved, by patrons and their children.

Rose Dixon, director of the **Hamer Branch** of the Jefferson County Library District, passed away in November, 2017.

Our condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and everyone who will miss Rose.



FREE MONEY for INTERNET

There is free money available to libraries to pay for internet service. So, why wouldn't you take advantage of it? Maybe you think E-Rate and EOR are too complicated. That the process takes too much time. That your library's internet is just fine as it is -- and it's already free. Or, maybe, you just can't stand one more acronym.

Well, the Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Broadband Consultant Dylan Baker can't do much about the acronyms, but he can help with the rest of the process. And he will walk you and/or your staff member through the filing process each and every time, if need be.

E-rate is the federal mechanism to help ensure that schools and libraries can obtain high-speed internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates. E-rate funding is administered as a **discount** from the service provider. It ranges from 20 to 90 percent of the cost of the services.

The portion of the costs not discounted (covered) under E-rate can then be eligible for **reimbursement** under the State of Idaho's Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act. Through EOR, a public library can be reimbursed for the non-E-rate portion of its internet services. And, the requirement that was present for the first year of EOR, which mandated libraries filter their Wi-Fi, is no longer a requirement.

So, for example, if you apply and receive a discount on your internet bill of 80 percent under E-rate, you would then apply to get the remaining 20 percent reimbursed under Idaho's EOR program -- bringing your cost to zero.

Sounds simple, right? Fill out a couple of forms and you've got your internet paid for -- forever, right? Well, no. You have to apply each year. (Schedule and deadlines to follow.) And since you only complete each form once a year, it can be challenging to remember how to do it by the next time. Or maybe you have different staff members completing the forms from year to year. Perhaps we've reached the problem . . . Too many forms, deadlines, confusion, and aggravation. Yes, there are forms and deadlines, but Dylan will help you through any confusion and/or aggravation.

Whether you are new to E-rate or have forgotten where to start, Dylan is happy to help. He will get on the phone and/or computer, and walk you (or the appropriate member of your staff) through every step. Dylan even has a screen-sharing tool, so he can see exactly what you are looking at on your computer screen as you fill out the electronic E-rate form.

The other common reason many directors have for not exploring E-rate and EOR is that their library already receives free internet through a city contract or other mechanism. But what is the **quality** of that free internet service? Is it really such a great deal if it's so slow that only one or two patrons or staff members can be on the internet at a time?

E-rate and EOR present the opportunity for a library to increase its bandwidth and have a higher quality connection -- without being limited by budget.

Mostly. The State's EOR funding is a true reimbursement. So, the library does have to be able to cover the first six months of that portion of the cost before their reimbursement arrives. The ICfL administers the reimbursement and issues those checks twice a year. So, for the library, the EOR portion is an up-front cost.

What should you expect if you decide to pursue E-rate and EOR funding for your library?

- The E-rate **Form 470** is due in early spring.
- The form is filled out electronically via the USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) website and will take approximately 2 to 3 hours to complete.
- Internet companies will then provide bids about what services they can offer the library, based on what is

FREE MONEY for INTERNET

Continued from Page 10.

requested in Form 470.

-- The library will evaluate the bids -- another 1 to 2 hours -- and decide on the vendor that makes the most sense. (Once the library determines a vendor and is ready to sign a contract, approval by the library's Board is needed.)

-- The E-rate **Form 471** is due in late spring/early summer.

-- With Form 471, you are telling E-rate which quote you are choosing and how much it will cost.

-- Form 471 will take between 1 and 2 hours to complete.

-- E-rate will review your Form 471 and respond -- typically, with a funding commitment. Those are usually given in June or July.

-- Once you have E-rate's funding commitment, the library must file **Form 486**, which is generally done in July or August.

-- Form 486 will take about 1 hour to complete, at the most. Basically, Form 486 is a recap of the service, the funding level that E-rate committed to, and the library's agreement to comply with the E-rate requirements. The primary one is the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which mandates an Internet content filter, of some sort, be active on all library computers.

---- And, if your library is participating in E-rate for the first time, you could get a one-year grace period regarding the CIPA requirement. You would not have to have a content filter in place to participate the first year.

-- For the **EOR reimbursement**, the library has to complete a form twice a year -- another 1 to 2 hours to complete.

Overall, a library could expect to devote 6 to 12 hours a year -- spread over a six-month time frame -- to get a high-quality, high-capacity internet connection at little or no cost.

If you are ready to pursue E-rate and/or EOR, or if you just have questions, please contact the ICfL's Broadband Consultant, Dylan Baker, at 208-639-4167 or via email at: dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov. Dylan can help you or your staff through this process, so your library can have the best internet available for your patrons and staff.

E-rate Funding Year 2018 *Filing Window Announced*

New **E-rate** deadlines for the funding year 2018 (July, 2018 - June, 2019) have been announced.

Form 471 will be available Thursday, January 11, 2018 and the process will close Thursday, March 22, 2018.

This means, unless a library is under a contract for their internet service that **EXTENDS** beyond June, 2019, the library must file Form 470 **no later** than **February 22, 2018**. (This is necessary due to the required 28-day waiting period between the filing of Form 470 and Form 471.)

If you have questions, please contact ICfL Consultant Dylan Baker at dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov or at (208) 334-2150.

The Votes Are In

Wilder Library District

Voters did not approve a two-year, 85,000-per-year plant facilities levy. The measure failed to achieve the 55 percent majority needed for it to pass.

The results were: Yes: 183 votes (50.41%) -- No: 180 votes (49.59%)

Mountain Home Public Library

Voters approved the proposed \$150,000-library levy, which affects the tax years of 2018 and 2019.

The measure passed with a 57.52 percent majority.

The results were: Yes: 769 votes -- No: 568 votes



The proposed Public Library District in Donnelly

Voters approved the measure to create the Donnelly Public Library District by a vote of 133 to 35. It will be the first new library district formed in Idaho since 1999.

The Donnelly Community Library has been operating since 2008 primarily with support from grants and donations. The library could not offer regular hours, had no book budget, and was only able to provide limited programming and services.

Donnelly Community Library Acting Director Sherry Scheline said, "The kids in Donnelly don't currently have many options for fun and engaging things to do when school isn't in session, and many can't get to McCall or other places easily. We are excited that we'll finally be able to offer those things here."

Scheline explained, "A key to the successful election was the work done by the planning group in talking with area parents and educating them about the benefits of a district library." Scheline said, "We spent more than five hours at our local Halloween event, providing free books to children and talking to their parents about the upcoming election. It was a good strategy for us and a great way to reach a lot of people in a short amount of time." Scheline added, "My voice had given out by the end of that event, but those moms and dads voted, and we appreciate their support."

Newly-appointed library Board Member Laura Bettis said, "Although district funds won't be available until 2019, the board is ready to get going." Bettis added, "There is a lot of work that needs to happen, but we are so excited that the election passed by such a large margin. Knowing we have that kind of community support is helping us build even more momentum."

EatPlayGrow™ Micro-Grant

Deadline -- January 10

The application deadline for the EatPlayGrow™ micro-grant program is January 10, 2018. Public libraries can receive up to \$500 to support health programming efforts aimed at preschoolers and their parents.

EatPlayGrow™ was developed by the Children's Museum of Manhattan, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health. The free curriculum breaks down healthy habits into a storytime format that young children find engaging. Idaho's version of the program is supported by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation.

The ICfL will provide grant recipients with \$500 for the purchase of healthy snacks, art supplies, promotional materials, manipulatives, and/or hardcover books to support the lessons. In addition, the ICfL will provide a free book for the families who participate, to supplement each of the five sessions of the program.

For more information and the application, visit: <http://libraries.idhaho.gov/eatplaygrow>.

Humanities Grant Deadline -- Jan. 15

The Idaho Humanities Council (IHC) is accepting grant applications for mini-grants (less than \$2,000) and major grants (more than \$2,000), which have historically supported museum and library exhibits. Also available are \$1,000 Teacher Incentive Grants, which are awarded to K-12 teachers to enhance their teaching of the humanities. The **deadline** for grant proposals is **January 15, 2018**. Before beginning a proposal, prospective applicants are encouraged to email project ideas to IHC staff at: info@idahohumanities.org. This year, the IHC has special interest in opportunities for civil discourse on race and ethnicity and other issues of public concern. Grant guidelines and the application are available at: <http://www.idahohumanities.org>, found under "grants."

National Grant Proposals Due Feb. 1

The **deadline** for submitting preliminary proposals for two **federal grants** available through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is February 1, 2018.

The **National Leadership Grant** program invests in projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields and generate results, such as new tools, research findings, or models that can be widely used.

The **Laura Bush 21st-Century Librarian Grant** program supports professional development and training projects for libraries and archives.

For information, please visit: <https://www.ims.gov/nofo/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program-fy18-notice-funding-opportunity>. To see which past proposals have been awarded funds, please visit: <https://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded-grants> and select "National Leadership Grants" or "Laura Bush 21st-Century Librarian Program."

Get Involved Collaborative Grant

How does **free** labor sound? Maybe like Santa finally got your letter? Volunteers can prove to be a valuable addition to your workforce -- and they won't impact your bottom line. If your library can use skilled volunteers to help with programs and services, contact Sue Walker at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). The ICfL is entering the second year of its three-year Get Involved Collaborative grant.

The focus of the grant is to help public libraries develop their ability to recruit, train, and retain knowledgeable volunteers who can support a variety of projects and programs. The type of support a volunteer can give your library is limited only by your imagination.

The grant provides free access to premier VolunteerMatch accounts, access to training, and help to develop a customized volunteer program that truly supports your library's mission and goals.

If you would like to "Get Involved," contact the ICfL Consultant Sue Walker at: sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov or at (208) 334-2150. If your library is already using another volunteer recruitment tool, staff may access volunteer resources at the Get Involved Resource Clearinghouse at: <http://getinvolvedclearinghouse.org>.

Upcoming Deadlines

Applications for **My First Books** will be open in
February, 2018.

Applications for **Idaho Child Care Reads** are due
February 15, 2018.



Requests are being accepted for the 2018
Jump Start Kindergarten program.

For more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/jump-start>.

Applications for **School Library Access Mini-Grants** are being accepted.
The deadline is **February 23, 2018**.

For more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/elementary-school-library-access-mini-grants>.

Spring **MAKE it Training** on the Way Soon

Application Deadline -- January 19

The online [application](#) is available for the ICfL's spring Make It training.



Training will be held in three areas of the state --
Boise (March 15-16), **Idaho Falls** (April 3-4),
and **Moscow** (April 10-11).

All publicly funded libraries in Idaho are eligible to apply.
Space constraints allow for an average of 15 libraries at each location.

This year's focus will be on design-thinking and design.

Contact the ICfL's [Tammy Hawley-House](#) for more information.

Teen Tech Week Coming Soon!

In Idaho, **Teen Tech Week** is celebrated during the entire month of March, but it is not too early to register for Teen Tech Week. This year's theme is "Libraries Are for Creating."

The **first 60 school or public libraries** to register will receive 2 making books and a set of 3D Snap circuits.

Participation is easy. All you have to do is hold at least one event for teens/tweens during the month of March, 2018, and then complete a final survey to share what you did and how many participants you had. (The survey will be due by April 15, 2018.)

For more information and the registration form, please visit:
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/teen-tech-week>.

If you have any questions, please contact the ICfL Consultant
Tammy Hawley-House at tammy.hawleyhouse@libraries.idaho.gov
[idaho.gov](http://libraries.idaho.gov) or at 208-334-2150.



ICfL's Continuing Education **Grants**

Did you know that the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) offers continuing education grants to help library staff with conference attendance, group training events, leadership development programs, and library science courses?

For more information, including to find out if your event qualifies for a grant, please contact the ICfL's Continuing Education Consultant Gina Persichini at gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov or at 208-334-2150.

The grants are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are required to submit their application at least 50 days prior to the start of the event, but earlier is always better, as funds will likely be obligated before the end of the State fiscal year (June 30).

Cost-Effective **Support for Rural Libraries**

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) provides resources and support designed specifically to meet the unique needs and challenges faced by those who work in small and/or rural libraries.

ARSL's extremely cost-effective membership rates are available on a sliding rate scale, which starts at \$15. For more on membership, please visit: <https://arsl.info/membership/>.

Some of the membership benefits of ARSL are: professional networking opportunities with librarians who work in a library similar to yours; a targeted listserv where you can go for answers, ideas, and support; and ARSL's annual conference, where you can meet and engage with your peers in person and attend conference sessions that contain information that is relevant to you and your small and/or rural library.

For more information on ARSL, please visit: <https://arsl.info/>.

The ARSL conference is also a qualifying event for a first-time conference grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). For more information, contact the ICfL's Grants /Contracts Officer Jamie Mott at jamie.mott@libraries.idaho.gov or at (208) 334-2150.

Save the Date
March 1 - 2, 2018

The 2018 Public Library Directors' Summit
is scheduled for March 1 - 2, 2018 in Boise.

This year's theme is: **Our Stories Connect Us.**
ICfL Continuing Education Consultant Gina Persichini
will send details soon.

Workforce Development Comes to Rural Idaho -- and **Libraries** Help **Lead** the Way

The Idaho Department of Labor, in concert with other state agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, is implementing the framework of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by operating Idaho American Job Centers throughout the state. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services, and it matches employers with skilled workers. The concept is to create an easily accessible “one-stop-shop.”

Lizard Butte Library District Director Janna Streibel has been working to partner with the Idaho American Job Center, in an effort to bring workforce and economic development opportunities to Marsing. Other libraries planning community conversations on this topic include: the Mountain Home Public Library, the Kuna Library District, and the Idaho Falls Public Library.

State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “I find Janna’s passion and commitment inspiring, as she positions the Lizard Butte Library District as a true partner and resource in the economic redevelopment efforts being undertaken by the Marsing community.”

The State has prioritized better access to workforce and economic development services for residents of rural Idaho communities. The services include those for adults, youth, and dislocated workers, along with adult education and literacy programs, unemployment assistance, and vocational rehabilitation.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) serves as a conduit between public libraries and the umbrella of services provided through this State initiative. If you would like more information about including your library as a workforce development resource in your community, please contact the ICfL’s Program Services Manager Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov or (208) 639-4149.

More information may be found: <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/wioa/Home.aspx>.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/americanjobcenters/find-american-job-centers-Detail.aspx?location=Idaho&radius=25¢erID=32634876&dist=&olds=0&return=1>.

LiLAC Fosters Library Leaders

The Library Leadership Advisory Committee (LiLAC) fosters leadership within the Idaho library community. LiLAC is a collaborative effort between the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Library Association.

In November 2017, LiLAC held the second “Leadership to Make a Difference” Institute, which was facilitated by Kathee Tifft and Mary Schmidt, of the University of Idaho Extension Service. The intensive two-day training focused on leadership basics for library staff and trustees.

Thirteen library staff members from nine libraries participated in the November session. They explored communication techniques, ideas for team building, best practices for leading effective meetings, and tools for leadership development. Past participants report developing new-found confidence in their personal leadership development journey. Plans are underway for the next session, which will be held in the spring of 2018 in eastern or south-central Idaho.

More than 8,600 Eclipse Glasses from Idaho Get a Second Life

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) offered to collect "gently used" eclipse glasses from Idaho libraries -- and you responded!

More than **8,600 glasses** were collected and sent to
Astronomers without Borders.

The organization will distribute the glasses to countries where
they are needed but unavailable for the 2019 eclipses.

(total solar eclipse in South America and an annular eclipse in southeastern Asia)

Thank you, Idaho Libraryland for your generous response.
And thanks to the ICfL volunteers, particularly Liz Carpenter,
who counted and bundled all of the glasses for shipment.

Meet Idaho's State Archivist

David Matte



Idaho State Archivist
David Matte

As the Idaho State Archivist, David Matte enjoys the challenges of managing the Idaho State Archives and serving on the leadership team of the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS).

The ISHS is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Museum, Idaho State Archives (ISA), Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and the Historic Sites Program. The ISA and Research Center provides public access to records of fiscal, administrative, legal, vital, and long-term research value to the citizens and government of Idaho. The ISA preserves a large and unique collection of materials that relate to the history of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, including photographs, books, maps, manuscripts, oral histories, and government records.

While earning a history degree at Boise State University, David took a class on archives and manuscripts that intrigued him and, ultimately, changed the direction of his professional life. David attained a graduate degree and a certificate in Archives Administration. He worked as an access services and public services librarian before returning to Boise to accept the role of reference librarian at the Idaho State Archives in 2008. In 2011, David moved into the role of deputy state archivist, and in 2014, David assumed his current position of state archivist and administrator. David balances his time between administrative duties and traditional archival/reference work. He supervises two government records archivists, one collections archivist, one photo archivist, one reference librarian, and one state records manager. The holdings of the Idaho State Archives and State Records Center combine to form more than 200,000 cubic feet of records. The agency provides access to, and transparency of, the state and local government records collected, managed, and preserved for the citizens of Idaho.

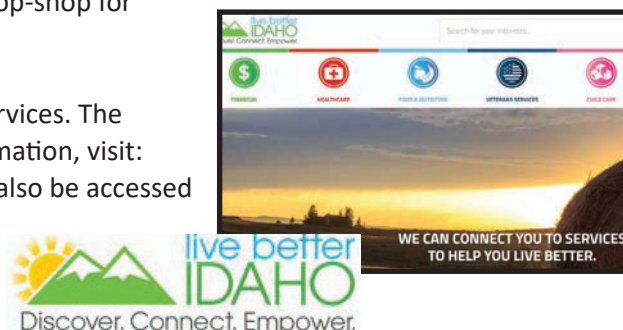
David invites the Idaho library community to learn more about the unique documents and records that help tell the story of the Gem State. David said, "We are here as partners and encourage librarians to talk to us about our holdings, collections, and preservation work." For more of this article about David Matte, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/stephanie-bailey-white/meet-idaho%E2%80%99s-state-archivist-david-matte>.

Live Better Idaho

At the Live Better Idaho website, <http://www.livebetteridaho.org>, Idahoans seeking information on a variety of services can find what they are looking for -- in just a click or two.

The categories of services found are: financial; healthcare; food and nutrition; veterans' services; child care; family services; and work and education. This powerful platform brings a number of organizations, departments, non-profits, and faith-based groups together as a virtual one-stop-shop for resources.

Library staff can use this website to guide patrons to needed services. The library can also become a "partner" on the site. For more information, visit: <https://www.livebetteridaho.org/our-partners>. (This page may also be accessed from the site's menu icon, which is near the search box.)



Trustee Connections Workshops

Held in August

In August 2017, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) hosted four Trustee Connections workshops for public library directors and trustees at sites in Coeur d'Alene, Twin Falls, Rexburg, and Middleton. (Much thanks to the respective libraries for providing meeting space and assistance!)

There were 125 participants among the four locations, representing more than 50 district and city libraries. The event focused on leadership development, community-building tactics, and strategic planning. Phil Eastman, of the Leadership Advisors Group, served as facilitator. At each site, the ICfL's area field consultants were available to answer specific questions from the libraries in the region.

An overwhelming 93 percent of the attendees reported gaining a better understanding of:

- their respective roles and responsibilities;
- the relationship between trustees and directors;
- community engagement strategies; and
- planning tools and processes.

And 92 percent of the attendees reported being "likely" to apply what they learned. That knowledge will assist the participants in improving library services to their communities, conducting strategic planning for the library, and engaging the community.

To access the handouts and information presented at the events, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/trustee-connections>.

If you are uncertain of who your library's ICfL area library consultant is, please visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/ConsultingAreaMapDec2017.pdf>.

Why Didn't I Think of That?

Director **Becky Mitchell** of the **Challis Public Library** has a "free cart" for their **weeded books**. Many people use them for art projects, like making spine-label bookmarks and book-cover mouse pads.



The **Meridian Library District** (main branch) now has a **designated parking space** for patrons who just need to run in and return a book, along with two spaces that give patrons 10 minutes to grab their favorite best-seller.



The **Caldwell Public Library** grew their **adult summer reading program** by nearly **1,600%** in one year!

In 2016, the library had 16 participants in their adult summer reading program. The low turn-out motivated the Library's **Marina Rose** to do better in 2017. And she certainly did! Marina devised a bingo-style program, where participants had to complete tasks related to the summer reading theme. Each completed bingo sheet entered the patron into a drawing for a grand prize. The program had three levels, each requiring 10 hours of reading (or listening to audiobooks). For each level a participant completed, they were awarded a small prize and entered into the drawings for "mega" prizes -- like a family pass to the zoo or a Kindle Fire. After just one month of their two-month program, the library ran out of prizes, even though they had planned enough give-aways for 50 participants. Marina, her colleagues, and some of the library's volunteers worked to solicit donations from area businesses and advertise the program. Their ingenuity and hard work paid off. The Caldwell Public Library had **255** participants in its Adult Summer Reading Program in 2017 (remember, they had 16 the year before). Congratulations to Marina and everyone who made the program such a success. Marina said, "We are excited to see what the next year brings -- and this time, we'll be ready."



This summer, Director **Alyce Kelley** and her team at the **Emmett Public Library** held fun and educational STEM activities for kids in their community -- like one with soil and water. The youngsters experienced hands-on learning and also read about the topics.

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Why Didn't I Think of That?

Continued from Page20.

Director **Beverly Richmond**, of the **Priest Lake District Library**, held the library's first STEM activity last summer. Local kids had fun (and learned lots) while they created a butterfly garden and made butterfly houses. And for summer reading, butterflies reigned supreme!



In October, the **Idaho Falls Public Library** held a day-long Star Wars-themed extravaganza, which included bookmarks, cookies, and a Jedi "I Spy" game that was fun for all ages. Another event was a Jane Austen Ball.

The **Victory Branch** of the **Ada Community Library** (Boise) held a **hands-on coding program** for kids and teens. Included was an introductory session that was led by a local computer programmer, who discussed what programmers and developers do, the **job opportunities** in those fields, and more.

During the holiday season, many libraries, like the **Marshall Public Library** in Pocatello, give back to their community through a "**food for fines**" program.

And at the beginning of the school year, the library staff collected toiletry items for the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25 **supply pantry**, which provides some of the basics, like shampoo and soap, to students in need.



The **Ketchum Community Library** checked out **guitars** 73 times last year! (More on the library on page 22 of this newsletter.)

Goings on from outside of the Idaho Libraryland . . .

At the Avon Public Library in Colorado, a **Reading Buddies** program pairs trained teen volunteers with younger students to read, do activities, and play games. Library staff say the program fosters a love of reading in the youngsters, and leadership skills and a sense of responsibility in the older students.

Many libraries around the country are **checking out portable internet hot spots** to their patrons. A portable hot spot taps into 3G and/or 4G cellular networks, just like a smartphone does, and then wirelessly shares the data connection with other nearby Wi-Fi-enabled devices. The Jackson County Library Services, in Medford, Oregon, will begin this type of program in mid-January, 2018.

Libraries are checking out **board games** to help people learn and hone skills like communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

ICfL Board Toured Central Idaho Libraries

In October, the board of commissioners of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) toured seven libraries in the south-central part of the Gem State. The libraries were: The Community Library, in Ketchum; the Hailey Public Library; the Wood River Middle School Library in Hailey; the Bellevue Public Library; the Little Wood River District Library in Carey; and the Mountain Home Public Library. The group concluded the two-day tour at the Bown Crossing Branch of the Boise Public Library, where the October board meeting was held.

The ICfL board members are: Chair Pat Raffee (Post Falls); John Held (Payette); Dave Mecham (Firth); Janet Franklin (Buhl); and Mark Alldredge (Boise), who was not on the tour. Accompanying the board members from the ICfL were: State Librarian Ann Joslin; Deputy State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White; Administrative Services Manager Roger Dubois; Area Field Consultant Kevin Tomlinson; and Public Information Specialist Donna Eggers.



The tour began in Ketchum at the “odd duck” of Idaho libraries -- which is really a hidden gem. The **Community Library** is a privately-governed, privately-funded, public library, which was established in 1955 by a small group of forward-thinking women. By the intention of its founders, the Community Library is not dependent on any local, state, or federal tax funding. The founders each contributed one dollar to the library's treasury. They opened the Gold Mine Thrift Store, which was devised to be the ongoing funding source to build and then operate the library -- as it continues to be, to this day. Of the library's unique status and structure, Executive Director Jenny Emery Davidson says, “It is a poignant reflection of the community's generosity and commitment to its collective stories.”



Another great idea. Signage that is easy for children to understand -- even if they aren't old enough to read!

The next stop on the tour was the sun-filled **Hailey Public Library**. Director LeAnn Gelskey and some of her team were on hand to highlight several of their many innovations, such as: the eye-catching display of titles designed to support book clubs; the ways they accommodate the varied computer needs of their patrons, including teens and solitaire-loving seniors; and how assisting their patrons often extends far beyond the library's front doors. State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “Whether they are reaching underserved children who need their minds and stomachs fed, or homebound seniors whom many forget, the outreach done by LeAnn and her team is so important for the entire Hailey area.”

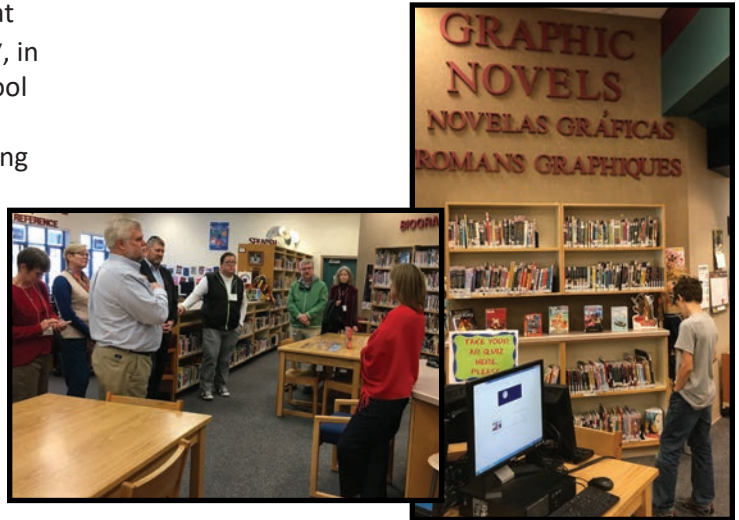


Continued on Page 23.

ICfL Board Toured Central Idaho Libraries

Continued from Page 22.

The members of the ICfL tour might have had flashbacks of fractions and bad cafeteria food when they arrived at the **Wood River Middle School Library**, in Hailey. However, it didn't take long to see that the school -- and the school library -- have changed a lot since the days when passing a note in class took stealth and timing -- not an electronic device and a personalized emoji. School Library Director Susan Tabor Boesch showed off the big, beautiful library space, along with just a few of the many ways she supports students and teachers. In touting Susan's hard work and diligence, State Librarian Ann Joslin said, "From ensuring the library has the current resources that the students and faculty need and want, to engaging with the youngsters in ways that will make the library a welcoming place, the role of the school librarian has never been more important -- or more far-reaching."



The ICfL group was excited to visit the **Bellevue Public Library**, but their enthusiasm paled in comparison to that of Library Director Kristin Gearhart, whose passion for all things library is infectious. Kristin gave a tour of the recently enlarged -- but still compact -- library, where the members of the small community come to learn, engage, and be entertained. That may seem like a lot to expect from the library's only paid staff member and an additional 1,000 square feet of space, but the Bellevue Public Library does not disappoint. Whether the kids in town need a safe place to go after school or a group of adult readers want to share ideas and adventures, the library is truly the heart and soul of the community.

Continued on Page 24.

ICfL Board Toured Central Idaho Libraries

Continued from Page 23.

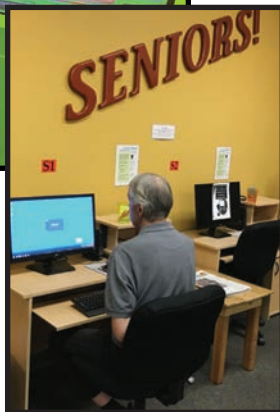
The visitors went from one small library that got a little bigger, to another. The next stop on the tour was the **Little Wood River District Library**, in Carey, which recently increased its own footprint. The library doubled its size, and all of the space is now on the ground level. Previously, the children's area was located in the basement, which made serving -- and containing -- the youngsters a physical challenge. Not only did the renovation receive strong community support, but for current Library Director Mary Bowman and former Director Amy Mecham, it was often a family affair. They received assistance and "sweat equity" from loved ones for a variety of the projects, like plumbing and decorating. The local kids teamed up -- little ones with high-schoolers -- to move the books from the old building to the new one. Amy said, "They 'own' this building now."



Carey kids get creative and color their own bookmarks!



The last stop for the board members and ICfL staffers before returning to the Treasure Valley was the **Mountain Home Public Library**, where the "Discover Earth: Our Changing Planet" was proudly on display. The library was one of only eight in the country chosen to host this traveling exhibit. That honor is quite a testament to the hard work and dedication of Library Director William Lamb and his team. The Mountain Home Public Library serves the needs of the community in many ways, including with dedicated "seniors-only" computers that are located in a quiet part of the library. Some of the library's other innovative offerings are the "Murder Mystery Dinner," which is geared for teens and adults, and a 3D design class.



The ICfL Board of Commissioners held their October board meeting at the **Bown Crossing** branch of the **Boise Public Library**. Branch Manager Sarah Kelley-Chase gave the group a tour of the beautiful facility, which opened in May, 2017.



ShareIdaho is a system for resource sharing among Idaho libraries to build their capacity to provide access to information to their communities. It replaced the LiLI Unlimited program.

ShareIdaho maintains many of the services and features of the previous program, but its flexibility makes it a valuable resource for libraries of all types and sizes.

Please visit the following site for more information: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/shareidaho>. Or contact the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) via email at: libshareidaho@libraries.idaho.gov or the ICfL's LiLI Librarian Allison Floyd at: allison.floyd@libraries.idaho.gov.

**A recipient of a
school library access mini-grant**

from the



"Our school was a recipient of an access grant for \$5,000, aimed at purchasing books for our first-graders to take home. . . . A first-grader told me how she reads her library books every night and especially loves the non-fiction books. We have never before allowed our first-graders to check out books to take home. We can already see what a difference it is making. Thank you, ICfL, for making a difference!"

**Principal Kathy J. Baker
Greensferry Elementary School
Post Falls**



Capitol Christmas Tree

Donated by ICfL Volunteer

The 2017 State of Idaho Capitol Christmas tree was a 55-foot, 37-year-old blue spruce -- with a special connection to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). The beautiful tree was donated by ICfL Volunteer Janet "Casey" Haroian.

When Casey and her late husband, Michael, moved into their house in a south Boise neighborhood in the summer of 1992, the majestic spruce was there to welcome them



The Capitol Christmas Tree's "Baby" Pictures!

Photos Courtesy of Casey Haroian, circa 1992.

home. And despite what the thermometer said, Michael got into the Christmas spirit. Before too long, Casey looked out the window to see that her husband had put Christmas lights on the big spruce -- several months in advance of the holiday season.



After Casey decided the time had come to cut the mammoth tree down, the blue spruce was selected as the tree that would grace the front of the Capitol as Idaho's 2017 State Christmas tree. Hundreds attended the tree-lighting ceremony on November 27, 2017.

The bottom section of the tree was cut off and will be carved into a wooden bowl for Casey, who will receive the memento at next year's tree-lighting ceremony.



Upcoming Dates to Know

Jan. 1

Annual Report
Due
(Public Libraries)
Info. on Page 7.

Jan. 10

EatPlayGrow
Micro-Grant
Application
Deadline
Info. on Page 13

**Jan. 11
thru
March 22**

E-rate Form 471
Available
Info. on Pages 10-11.

Jan. 19

Make It Training
Application
Deadline
Info. on Page 15.

Feb. 15

Idaho
Childcare Reads
Applications
Due
Info. on Page 14.

Feb. 23

School Library
Access
Mini-Grant
Deadline
Info. on Page 14.

March 1-2

Public Library
Directors'
Summit
(in Boise)
Info. on Page 16.

March

Teen Tech
Week
(Celebrated all month.)
Info. on Page 15.

Congratulations to University of Idaho
Associate Professor and Education Librarian
Rick Stoddart for being chosen as president
of the Pacific Northwest Library Association
(PNLA).



Contact Info Changes?

If you have changes to the contact information
for your library and/or trustees,
please let John Shinn at the ICfL know.
Email John at: john.shinn@libraries.idaho.gov or
call the ICfL at: 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.